DERRIS H. BANKS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

Application/Control Number: 10/777,497

Art Unit: 3725

## **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

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An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with the attorney of record, Andrew Chew, on June 7, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

With regard to claim 6, line 9, the phrase – of said counter-nut -- has been inserted following the phrase, "a relative rotation".

## **Reasons for Allowance**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record disclose an apparatus for separating hard components from a grinder comprising a grid means, a separating cutter, and a collecting tube. However, the prior art of record does not disclose or render obvious all of the details of the limitations of independent claim and, in particular, an apparatus for separating hard components from a grinder comprising a grid means wherein the gap is adjusted by a counter-nut in accordance with the means provided in the specification as invoked by the "means-plus-function" in the claim.

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The following prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. It includes Leser (US 5,405,095).

## Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason Y. Pahng whose telephone number is 571 272 4522. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM, Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Derris Banks can be reached on 571 272 4419. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JYP

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